

NEWS RELEASE

**INDIANA
WORKFORCE
DEVELOPMENT**



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Joseph E. Kernan, Governor
Alan D. Degner, Commissioner

Kernan Awards Grant to Train 185 Anderson Area Workers

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind. – Building a stronger Hoosier workforce, today Gov. Joe Kernan awarded a \$182,659 Incumbent Worker Training grant to upgrade the skills of 185 construction workers in Anderson and various central Indiana cities.

Administered by the Indiana Department of Workforce Development, the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local #103 will use the funding to train members in new technologies and renew certifications.

“We are excited to award this funding to IUOE Local #103, it’s a great program and a great partnership,” said Kernan. “We are living in incredibly competitive times and with training opportunities like this, both Indiana and the Anderson economy will continue to grow and prosper.”

The training will be provided by Indiana University Labor Studies and of the 185 participants, 120 workers will receive training and initial certifications in forklift operation, directional boring, day lighting, GPS systems, laser systems and crane operation. Training and certifications renewals for crane and forklift operators will also be offered to 65 employees.

Local #103’s president and business manager Bruce Tarvin and vice president and administrative manager of the Apprenticeship Program John Nunly commented on how grateful they are for the support. “We are very excited about the opportunity this will bring to our members. The future is moving toward the Laser and GPS systems and it’s our goal to offer our contractors the most advanced operators in the industry,” Tarvin added.

Local #103’s Apprenticeship and Training Program began in 1967 under the guidance and combined efforts of both labor and contractors. Journeymen and apprentices who receive training in the program are employed on construction projects in a 33 county region of central and eastern Indiana. In July 2002 the program was expanded and a new classroom and office facility with a state-of-the-art indoor training arena was completed in Anderson.

To match the state grant, IUOE Local #103 will contribute \$210,000 towards the project to purchase a grader and bulldozer for global positioning satellite (GPS) systems and laser training purposes as well as add more part time instructors, cover the cost of equipment and book rentals and fuel supply costs.

Through its various programs and initiatives, the Indiana Department of Workforce Development is charged with continually improving the Hoosier workforce by assisting companies create new jobs and improve employee skills. DWD offers a variety of training and educational grants, oversees the state’s 27 WorkOne Centers, administers the unemployment insurance system, provides labor market information, assists employers with preparing workers for layoffs and closures and operates the a statewide job placement service.

For more information on this or other DWD programs, contact Jeff Harris at 317/232-3396 or visit the web site at www.workforce.IN.gov.

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